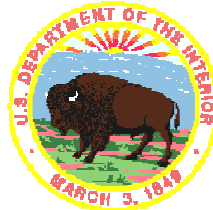




BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Vale District Office
100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918-9630
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale/>



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News Contact:
Barb Masinton, 541-473-6339

Magpie Peak Fire Update

Vale, Oregon, August 15 - The Magpie Peak wildfire was declared controlled as of Sunday, August 13th. This fire, which began on Thursday, August 10th as a lightning strike 9 miles northeast of Baker City, burned an estimated 2300 acres of dense sagebrush stands in and around the Powder River Canyon. At the height of fire suppression activities, 17 engines, 2 helicopters, 3 air tankers, 4 20-person hand crews, 3 dozers, 2 water tenders, and overhead support, for a total of 156 people were working on this fire. Resources were called from the Roseburg BLM and the Umpqua National Forest, to join forces with the Vale BLM and many private contractors. Retardant and water drops were used to prevent the fire from escaping the canyon. However, Friday afternoon the fire crested the rim, crossed fire lines and began running north. Mike Hartwell, Fire Management Officer for the Vale District said, "Extreme fire conditions including heavy fuels, erratic winds, and very rugged terrain made this a difficult fire to suppress."

Even though fire suppression resources were very limited due to the number of fires burning throughout the western U.S., available crews were able to prevent structure loss and saved several timber stands on private lands.

"We continue to remind everyone of the very dry conditions this year in our forests and on the range," said Juan Palma, Vale BLM District Manager. "Fire restrictions are currently in place, and we urge those planning to venture onto public lands to use extreme caution with fire."

For any questions regarding the Magpie Peak fire or current fire restrictions on the public lands, contact the BLM office in Vale at 541-473-3221.

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